

APRIL IS FAIR HOUSING MONTH!
Call for Six Word Stories to describe housing in Brookline



TOWN OF BROOKLINE
Housing Production Plan

The Town of Brookline is updating its Housing Plan, with a focus on affordable housing. We would like to ask you to help us to either describe existing housing in Brookline, and/or your vision of future housing opportunities, in six words.

What is a Six-Word Story¹:

A six-word story is exactly what it sounds like: six words that say describe a situation, express a feeling, or share a vision for the future. They're a form of legacy, emphasizing the way that words have power and meaning. You don't need a long-winded narrative to find meaning in your words (or story).... this is a way to get to the heart of the matter.

To begin, you'll need a storyline. Though six-word stories are short, they still follow the same general rules as traditional narratives. This means they have a beginning, middle, and end. More particularly, they have a movement of conflict, action, and resolution.

How will we use these stories?

These stories are a way for you to provide input into the Town's Housing Plan. We will include some of them in the Plan itself. Let us know if you would like your name removed if we choose to include your Six Word Story.

April is the month when we celebrate National Fair Housing Month. In this month we feel grateful for the Fair Housing Act. This law was designed to protect Americans from facing discrimination in selling, buying, or renting housing.

Fair Housing Act.

The Fair Housing Act, also known as the Civil Rights Act of 1968, was passed in order to address housing discrimination, including the attempted segregation of neighborhoods. While the Act has resulted in protecting many individuals and families from housing discrimination based on race, religion, sex, color, familial status, national origin, disability and other factors, discrimination still occurs. More on the Fair Housing Act: <https://www.justice.gov/crt/fair-housing-act-1>

¹ <https://www.joincake.com/blog/six-word-stories/>

Some examples of a Six Word Story²: A mixture of poetry and storytelling

“Wrong number,” says a familiar voice.

The smallest coffins are the heaviest.

Checking into a hotel to checkout.

Disputes between nations. Sorrow among families.

She loved cigarettes... More than life...

Imagined adulthood. Gained adulthood. Lost imagination.

Went abroad. Finally felt like home.

I'll be back tomorrow.' Years ago.”

Nothing to declare. Much to remember.

Sharp new yellow pencil. Limitless potential.

Wind blows. Sails fill. Journey begins.

More on the origin of Six Word Stories:

<https://www.openculture.com/2015/03/the-urban-legend-of-ernest-hemingways-six-word-story.html>

What is a Housing Production Plan (HPP)?

A Housing Production Plan (HPP) is a community's proactive strategy for planning and developing affordable housing. The purpose of a Housing Production Plan is to identify and address the affordable housing needs of low- or moderate-income people. A state-regulated plan that requires approval by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), the Housing Production Plan focuses on developing and preserving homes that meet the requirements of the state's affordable housing law, commonly known as Chapter 40B. Brookline continues to use Chapter 40B comprehensive permits, Inclusionary Zoning, and federal and state funds to create units that meet affordable housing needs.

For more information on Brookline's Housing Production Plan, please

see: <https://ma-brookline2.civicplus.com/1299/Housing-Production-Plan>

How do I participate?

Write your Six Word Story (no more than three stories per person) and **SEND YOUR SIX WORD STORIES TO:** Daphne Politis at daphne@community-circle.com by April 30. Don't forget to let us know if you would like your name to be published with your story or not. **We will assume that you don't mind your name included unless you otherwise say so.**

OR

Send or drop off a hard copy at Town Hall, Planning and Community Development Department

² <https://www.theodysseyonline.com/emotional-six-word-stories>